

From: llschuyler@netzero.net [<mailto:llschuyler@netzero.net>]
Sent: Monday, November 26, 2007 5:20 PM
To: Undisclosed-recipients
Cc: MLPAComments
Subject: Letter for Wednesday's meeting

Haven's Neck Preserve LLC
33701 S. Highway One, Gualala, CA 95445
MLPA contact: Laurie Schuyler
925-676-7723; llschuyler@netzero.net

November 26, 2007

Dear MLPA North Coast Stakeholders Committee:

The Board of the Haven's Neck Preserve has only recently become aware of the MLPA process. While we do have concerns about how an MPA will impact our area, we are encouraged by the thoughtful deliberations we have witnessed thus far and are hopeful that you will be open to listening to and incorporating our input into your final maps.

As you might know, Haven's Neck Preserve is a very special place which is thriving with marine life. The history of Haven's Neck is that it was for sale for years and no trust or public agency would buy it. When the price came down, there was a lot of development interest, the last one being a big hotel corporation. About the same time, there were constant headlines in the paper about how the marine life at the Stornetta Ranch was being plundered.

The surrounding neighbors on both sides of the highway were very worried about this, so we got together with the help of some local realtors and purchased Haven's Neck to prevent it from being developed and destroyed. As you can imagine, this was a very difficult deal to put together. Last Spring, each of the twenty families had to put up almost \$60K and agree to the strict restrictions that we imposed to protect the plant and marine life. In return for signing on to protect Haven's Neck Preserve the twenty members were allowed to fish off the rocks, launch kayaks, and take up to 12 abalone annually per family, although many take none. In our operating agreement, we have included provisions that allow for scientific access. We are also planning a CNPS walk this spring which would provide monitored public access and would like to have a similar one focused on marine life too. We are all committed to being good stewards of this special place and feel that we have a negligible impact on the marine life.

Three of the ten current proposals would make the Haven's Neck area off limits to fishing and abalone picking, so our members are very worried that they would lose these rights.

Some of our Anchor Bay neighbors to the south also occasionally use this area for recreational fishing. When the wind is blowing from certain directions, the rocks on the northern end of Haven's Neck create a wind shadow in the north cove that creates a protected area for fishing.

Actually, it is rare to see any fishing boats along the Saunders Reef area of the coast between Haven's Neck and Schooner's Gulch, other than a few trawlers during the salmon season, and an occasional tiny boat with a couple of fishing poles. Because of the dangerous winds and remoteness to easy launch sites, this area is largely untouched by human activity and it is obvious that the sea life is abundant. Therefore, we are surprised at the broad characterization for this area that it was over-fished in the past (which implies that it is still so).

We feel that the marine life along the proposed Saunders Reef MPA will do well regardless of whether a line is penciled around them on a map or not. Therefore, we feel that it does not need the strong extra protection that other areas of the ocean desperately require. It seems that the only impacts of this extra protection will be to take some of the joys of fishing and poking around for abalone away from the coastal owners and the rare tiny fishing boats that venture up from Anchor Bay.

Hence we request that you consider a reasonable compromise. We would prefer that the Saunders Reef area is not placed in a restricted zone. However, if it is, that the restrictions not be applied to activities that have a negligible impact on the marine life. If the primary threat to marine life is the commercial drag boats, especially if these will be displaced to our area from other areas of the coast due to the new MPA network, then please place the nearshore waters in a SMP that allows for recreational rockfish and abalone take. Or at the very least, allow us a ribbon of recreational activity along the shoreline.

Most of the owners between Haven's Neck and Schooner's Gulch are still unaware of the MLPA process and when they learn their recreational access might be taken away, they will likely become a very vocal force. But this seems avoidable. The property owners along this section of coastline love the ocean and are committed to protecting the marine life. Their interests are aligned with the goals of the MLPA. One of the challenges you will have in private property areas such as ours and Richardson Ranch is gaining monitoring access. But if you build in some accommodations for the property owners in your proposals, I am confident that they would be more accommodating to your access requests.

We understand that you are trying to achieve a difficult balancing act between science, public access, and economic interests, which has pushed some of the proposed restricted zones to private property. However, we believe that it is still possible to incorporate reasonable requests of the property owners into your proposals and not negatively impact the other interest groups or compromise marine life protection goals.

We appreciate all your hard work during this process,

Haven's Neck Preserve Board of Directors

Marcos Underwood
Robert Juengling
Craig Graffin
Laurie Schuyler
Clive Endress

Ron Dammann
Katy Carlsen